

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-07

OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /069 W

-----032211Z 010748 /70

O 032040Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9413

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS AND OTHER COMMENTARY REGARDING FMS CUT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1651

1) THE MOST NOTEWORTHY COMMENTARY CULLED FROM THE PRESS THUS FAR TENDS IN THE DIRECTION OF STRESSING WHAT ARE PERCEIVED AS ANOMALIES OR IRONIES IN U.S. POLICY REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, AS FOLLOWS: A) US DECISION NOT TO REDUCE FMS TO PHILLIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA IS SEEN AS EVIDENCE THAT US ACTS IN TERMS OF ITS OWN NATIONAL SECURITY BUT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ARGENTINE NATIONAL SECURITY AS A VALUEPOLICY OBJECTIVE TO BE PURSUED BY GOA. B) US ACTION IS CONTRASTED WITH POSTURE ASSUMED BY INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) DURING VISIT LAST WEEK IN THAT ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS SEEN AS GIVING GOA CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH WITH REGARDS TO DECLARED OBJECTIVE OF RESTORING TRADE UNION LIBERTIES, RESPECTING FREE PRESS AND RETURNING COUNTRY TO DEMOCRATIC NORMS (KRESTEN STATED HE WAS IMPRESSED BY FACTORS WHICH DIFFERENTIATE ARGENTINE MILITARY JUNTA FROM MILITARY GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS). C) FACT THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA DEPARTED TODAY FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO PERU INEVITABLY HAS RAISED

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COMMENTARY THAT REDUCTION IN US MILITARY CREDITS MAY COMPEL GOA TO CONSIDER GOING PERUVIAN ROUTE I. E. LOOKING TO USSR AS POSSIBLE ARMS SUPPLIER. D) CONVERGENCE OF US NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY VIS-A-VIS BRAZIL (AND POTENTIALLY ARGENTINA) WITH HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY SEEN AS POSSIBLE INDICATION OF INCREASING US DISINTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA -- IN CONTRAST WITH RHETORIC -- POTENTIALLY SERVING TO DRAW TOGETHER TRADITIONAL RIVALS BRAZIL

AND ARGENTINA IN ORDER TO RESIST US PRESSURES. E) WE ALSO ANTICIPATE COMMENTARY(SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY TO THAT IN (D) ABOVE) ARISING FROM PUBLICATION IN PRESS TODAY OF COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH MILITARY AID REQUEST TO CONGRESS ALLEGING THAT 50.1 MILLION DOLLAR FIGURE CITED FOR BRAZIL IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DISCRIMINATORY US ATTITUDE, VIS-A-VIS ARGENTINA, SINCE ARGENTINES GENERALLY REGARD BRAZIL AS MORE SERIOUS OFFENDER IN TERMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. F) THERE HAS BEEN SOME JINGOISTIC COMMENTARY IN POPULAR TABLOIDS AIMED AT RALLYING THE PEOPLE AROUND THE FLAG IN TRADITIONAL NATIONALISTIC RESPONSE, BUT HIS HAS BEEN VERY LIMITED THUS FAR.

2) WE SHOULD STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT NONE OF THE PRESS COMMENTARY ABOVE HAS BEEN DIRECTLY SOURCED TO GOA SPOKESMEN. IN FACT, IT IS OUR STRONG IMPRESSION AS REPORTED REFTEL THAT GOA RESPONSE LIMITING ITSELF TO FY-78 FMS CREDITS (WITHOUT ATTENTION TO FY-77 CREDITS OR PIPELINE, LET ALONE OTHER CATEGORIES OF MILITARY AID) SUGGESTS GOA EFFORT TO CONTAIN DAMAGE TO BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

3) IN THIS CONNECTION, TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS STATEMENT DATELINED WASHINGTON APPARENTLY ATTRIBUTED TO TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL THAT US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO EXTEND POLICY OF TYING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION TO MULTILATERAL CREDIT INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK AND IDB. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF TREASURY SECRETARY'S REMARKS IN THIS REGARD, ALSO, SECRETARY VANCE'S REPORTED COMMENT TO CONGRESS, CITED IN TODAY'S PRESS, TO THE EFFECT THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL SEEK TO AVOID MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF US AID RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, WHILE SEEN BY "CLARIN" AS AN "ATTEMPT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECONCILE THE IRRECONCILABLE," MAY CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER CALMING THE WATERS HERE. BERNARDO NEUSTAT'S TV COMMENTARY THIS EVENING IS TO BE ON THE FMS REDUCTION . WE WILL REPORT PROMPTLY.  
HILL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 BUENOS AIRES 1651  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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